

Legal Notice

Availability of a Draft Environmental Assessment for an Application for a Hard Rock Mine Operating Permit for Potentate Mining, LLC, in Granite County, MT

Potentate Mining, LLC (Potentate) has filed an application with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for an operating permit under the Metal Mine Reclamation Act. The operating permit would authorize a placer mine operation for the purpose of recovering sapphires and a minor amount of placer gold.

The proposed site is located about 22 miles southwest of Philipsburg, MT in Section 15, and parts of Sections 16, 17, 20, 21 and 22, Township 6 North, Range 16 West, all in Granite County, for a total permit area of about 2,800 acres.

Potentate currently operates in these locations under an exploration license and Small Mine Exclusion Statement and needs an operating permit due to proposed expansion of the site. Potentate proposes to disturb approximately 2,321 acres over a life of mine of about 30 to 40 years. The site is on private land and would employ up to 24 full and part time employees.

DEQ has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (Draft EA) to analyze the potential impacts of the proposed operation. The Draft EA can be viewed on DEQ's website at <http://deq.mt.gov/Public/ea/hardrock>. Comments on the Draft EA must be received by June 14, 2021 and sent to the following postal or e-mail address:

Betsy Hovda
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Hard Rock Mining Bureau
Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 200901
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Requests for application material can be made electronically via the following website: [https://montanadeq.govqa.us/WEBAPP/rs/\(S\(yzboldobgpmmpogyecmta1ix\)\)/support/home.aspx](https://montanadeq.govqa.us/WEBAPP/rs/(S(yzboldobgpmmpogyecmta1ix))/support/home.aspx). General information about the application can be viewed at: <http://deq.mt.gov/Mining/hardrock> (the website for electronically requesting information is also linked from this page).